



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICE

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January 21, 2009

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: Richard Sanchez
Acting Chief Information Officer

Subject: **CONFIDENTIAL/SENSITIVE INFORMATION STOLEN/LOST AT THE
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES AND THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES**

In November 2008, two unrelated computer security incident events occurred. An employee from Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and another from Health Services' (DHS) LAC+USC Medical Center each either lost or had stolen removable data storage devices (i.e., thumb drives). Each storage unit contained approximately 120 records containing confidential/sensitive information that were potentially compromised.

The respective departments have issued letters to the constituents identified informing them of this occurrence. This office established, and is implementing Phase II, a Portable Device Media Initiative, that addresses the protection of removable media devices and compact discs. We will collaborate with each department to ensure appropriate information security protections are being planned and implemented. This action will assist in reducing future incidents of these types. Additionally, both departments are performing an in-depth investigation of their respective security incident since it involved confidential information.

For questions or concerns related to this matter, please contact me or Robert Pittman, Chief Information Security Officer, at 213.253.5631 or email at rpittman@cio.lacounty.gov.

RS:RP:sjc

c: Sachi Hamai, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Raymond G. Fortner, County Counsel
John F. Schunoff, Director, Health Services
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, Children and Family Services
Linda McBride, HIPAA Privacy Officer, Auditor-Controller

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